

In the Description

Please add the following paragraph between paragraph [0019] and paragraph [0020]:

- [0019A] As shown in FIGS. 4 and 8, each curved stop end 30 self-evidently has a bulbous shape whereby distal end 36 tapers into proximal end 35 of said curved stop end 30 in a manner that blends the entire curved stop end 30 together to create a more aesthetic top surface 33, increases the total available surface area for decoration on the curved top surface 33 of said curved stop end 30 and eliminates sharp edges in an area where shoelaces and clothing can get entangled.--

REMARKS

In responses to the examiner's rejection of the claims, independent claim 9 has been amended to recite explicitly the advantages not taught by the prior art. The Description has been amended to recite in words what is obvious from the drawing figures 4 and 8.

In this art, it is an advantage to be able to decorate aesthetically. Although Collins teaches one element of the device having a smooth top surface it does not teach the entire top surface being smooth, which the present invention does.

This creates a better overall aesthetic appearance, provides much greater surface area for decoration and eliminates sharp edges in the area of clothing.

In sum, based on the above as well as the arguments presented in the previous amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the suggested prior art should not be combined but even if it is combined it does not disclose enough to form a basis for rejection of the claims.

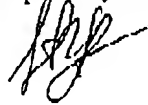
Since all of the foregoing amendments are understood to place the application in condition for allowance, their entry is submitted to be appropriate and is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17 distinguish over the prior art and should be allowed.

Accompanying this Amendment is a credit card payment form (PTO-2038) authorizing payment of an additional \$525 for a Response Within Third Month.

Dated: June 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Horowitz, Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 31,768
295 Madison Avenue, Suite 700
New York, NY 10017
(212) 867-6800